



Jo Ann Kessinger

February 26, 1952 - January 1, 2026

Jo Ann Kessinger, age 73, of Kincheloe, Michigan passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026, surrounded by her loving family at home. She was born on February 26, 1952, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Don and Jean (Pomranky) Gordon.

Jo Ann was raised in Brimley, Michigan, and graduated from Brimley High School with the class of 1970. In the summer of 1975, she married the love of her life, Rick Kessinger. Together they shared fifty wonderful years of marriage, building a life rooted in love, family, and a good party. Jo Ann shared herself generously with all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She found her greatest joy in being a mother to all her children. Faith and family were always at the center of her life, and everyone she knew was family in her heart.

Jo Ann was a child at heart, and she carried that joy and warmth into her more than twenty years as an educator. She cherished every opportunity to connect with her students, making learning a place of kindness, laughter, and understanding. Above all, she wanted each child to know they were deeply loved, valued, and cared for, leaving a lasting impact that extended far beyond the classroom.

Jo Ann is survived by her son, Rick (Nikki) Kessinger Jr. of Sanford, North Carolina; daughters, Lori (Tony) McKerchie of Sault Ste. Marie, Kim (Bob) Conlon of Nashville, Tennessee, Ann Marie Kessinger of Sault Ste. Marie, and Donna (Pat) Harder of Ira, Michigan; grandchildren, Rick, Jessica, Calli, Kayleen, Jenna, Ryan, Maia, Jake, Kate, Logan, Mekayle, Adam, Amber, and Kevin; great-grandchildren, Landyn, Carter, Violet, and Eli; and brother-in-law, John (Linda) Kessinger of Hephzibah, Georgia.

Jo Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Don and Jean Gordon; and her beloved husband, Richard Kessinger.

Her warmth, compassion, and unwavering love will be deeply missed and forever remembered.


Per Jo Ann's wishes, no services will be held at this time.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Pickford assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Tribute Wall

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“ When my family got transferred to Kincheloe Michigan in December of 1988, Joann welcomed us with open arms into the small community of correction officers families ,and into her home . For the past 38 years, her act of kindness toward my family has had a profound impact on our lives for my children and me. I will forever be grateful for her love , friendship, a house full of music and friends who always surrounded her and Rick. Alexa will always remember her time at Head Start, feeling loved and safe in Joann’s arms. As life goes, new jobs and moves separate friends , the distance and years never came between us. I have felt blessed having a part of Joann in my life every year from having Kim by my side throughout these 38 years , as Kim carries her mother’s genuine heart and joy for life . I will forever treasure the gifts of her daughters , including Donna , in my life . I know that Joann rests in the presence of God and her loving family and husband .,Joann is pain free and dancing. She and Rick are throwing the biggest party filled with love and music and are waiting for the rest of us to join them when our time comes . Sending my condolences to the entire Kessinger family for the loss of both of your parents. With love and sincerity , Monique, Alexa, Cooper and Kristi 

Monique Stacey - January 09 at 11:15 AM